



December 2, 2023

Dear Club Presidents, Secretaries, and Youth Activities Coordinators

The time for the Rotary District 7410 District Essay Contest for 2023-'24 is upon us. The contest is open to students who are high school juniors or seniors. The goal of the contest is to gain visibility for Rotary in your community, and to foster student creativity and positive outlook.

The district winner will receive \$1,000.00. There will be a second place prize of \$500.00 and a third place prize of \$250.00. Each club may only submit one essay from each high school in its service area. It will be up to your club to judge your local entries, and to determine if there will be a local prize. Many clubs invite the local winner and his or her family to a Rotary meeting to read their essay and be recognized. It is also up to club membership to determine if a local winner should receive a monetary award.

A club deadline of February 2, 2024 is suggested. This year's theme is "Create Hope in the World: How can Communities, Schools, Families, and or Friends support mental health with caring, giving and compassion?"

The length of the essay should be 1,000 words, which is a change from past years. In addition, student names must only appear on a title page. Essays must be completed and saved as a PDF. Google Docs cannot be used for this contest.

If your club has made consistent contact with a teacher, school counselor, or administrator, I would recommend contacting that individual as soon as possible to request their participation. Essays may be submitted by the club chair as an attachment to my personal email, but only with Essay/Club name/Club Chair name/Student name in the subject line. Essays may not be embedded in the email.

Entries must be received by me on or before March 1, 2024.

Please ascertain if the Student Guidelines and poster may be delivered to the school, or if they should be emailed. Those materials will be updated on the district website.

Thank you so much for your continued support of this Rotary District 7410 Youth Program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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New Milford Area Rotary

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